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THE
TOBOGGAN

A BRIEF SKETCH OF

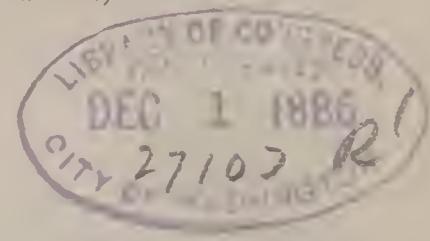
CANADIAN WINTER SPORTS,

AND SOMETHING AS TO THEIR GROWING POPULARITY IN THE
UNITED STATES.

BY HARRY PALMER,
(*Of The Chicago Evening Journal.*)

ILLUSTRATED BY

MISS FLOSS PALMER.



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PREFACE.

In presenting this little work upon tobogganing we do so in the belief that it will not only be of interest but of practical value to those desirous of participating in this most exhilarating and enjoyable of all winter sports throughout the North. Until within the past two or three years tobogganing has been in vogue only in Canada and in a few New England States where the hilly character of the country afforded many natural slides to lovers of the sport. In Russia, however, tobogganing had long been a popular pastime, notwithstanding the fact that a large part of that country is as flat and unbroken as are the prairie lands of Illinois. This inconsiderate omission upon the part of nature the Russians overcome by building artificial slides, and the example was soon followed in several Canadian cities, it being found that the artificial slides were superior to the natural in many respects. Since the winter of 1884, when a now celebrated slide was erected at Saratoga, tobogganing over artificial slides has rapidly grown in popularity in the United States, and the gaily costumed tobogganer at the Ice Palace Carnival in St. Paul last winter was among the most conspicuous and numerous of the revelers there. Last winter

toboggan clubs were organized in Chicago and several other places in the Northern States, Orange, N. J., Boston, and Burlington, Vt. This winter the organization of several other clubs is assured, and the construction of the public slides upon the grounds of the Chicago base ball club, New York polo grounds, Boston base ball grounds and other private parks, as well as the construction upon a larger scale than ever of the slides at St. Paul, presage a period of popularity for tobogganing in the North that will eventually make it the national winter pastime of Americans, just as base ball has become the national summer pastime. In the following pages we have attempted, through description and illustration, to familiarize the reader with the sport as it has been and is now enjoyed in Montreal, Quebec, Saratoga, St. Paul and throughout the New England States, and as it must very soon come to be participated in in all Northern cities in the United States where the snow falls to any depth.

THE PUBLISHERS.



THE TOBOGGAN.

I.

TOBOGGANING—A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE GROWTH AND POPULARITY OF THE SPORT — ARTIFICIAL SLIDES — HOW THEY ARE CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED.

“Toboggan.” A queer term to be sure, but the language of the American abounds in queer terms that are merely corruptions of words from other languages, and in distorting the Indian word *oda-baggan* into the simple, and more pronounceable one of “toboggan,” Americans may be pardoned in thus Americanizing the language of the red man; a liberty we have taken not only with the language of the Indian but with that of almost every nation represented to any extent upon American soil.

Tobogganing, while an institution of European as well as New World countries, is a recognized form of American sport. Its home and origin are Canadian, and it is in Canada and the vast expanse of country adjoining it on the north that the toboggan is most extensively used, both as a means of transportation and of recreation. *Appleton* in treating upon the

word says that the toboggan is a “sled without runners,” made of a strip of some tough, fibrous and elastic wood, from one-eighth inch to one-quarter inch in thickness, and this withal gives a very comprehensive idea of the primitive conveyance which in these modern times has been utilized by young American man and womanhood as a means of rare and exhilarating sport. The length of a toboggan varies in accordance with the number of people it is intended to carry, single flyers being from four to five feet in length, and the longest eight feet, although the rule for a racing flyer is that when standing upon end it shall exceed the height of the steerer by twelve inches, and may be from sixteen to twenty-four inches in breadth. It is cleated with short ribs of tough wood upon the upper side to give it increased strength, and along each end of these ribs just over the extreme edges of the toboggan are lashed the hand rails to which the load of the conveyance is strapped down, or to which its occupants cling as they dash over the slide. The fore end of the toboggan is steamed and bent backward like the dashboard of a sleigh. When used for coasting it is usually cushioned, the cushion being firmly strapped down to the side rails.

ORIGIN OF THE TOBOGGAN.

The toboggan dates back to an almost indefinite period in history, in that when the land of the Esquimaux first became known to Americans these

sleds, with dogs or men to draw them, were used by the Northmen in the transportation of their effects, their game, and the furs which they made a business of procuring. The Canadian Indians and the tribes occupying the far Northwest regions of the continent used them for the same purpose, and indeed it would be difficult to invent a conveyance more ingeniously adapted to the wants and customs of the people of these sections than is the toboggan. The deep snows which fall early in the season, and which remain through the long, dreary winter, obliterating all trails and roadways, and making but trackless wastes of the broad stretches of country, could scarcely be traversed with any other style of conveyance than the broad surfaced, light weighted toboggan, which glides along over the upper crust of the snow, notwithstanding that it may be heavily loaded. The Indians originally fastened the parts of their toboggans together wholly with deer thongs, and indeed many of the toboggans of Canadian manufacture at the present day are so put together, but of late years toboggan manufacturers in the New England States have introduced metal rivets, which give to the toboggan a greater degree of strength and durability without lessening its elasticity. Until of late years birch and bass wood were the only woods from which toboggans were constructed, but now maple and hickory are very largely used. Experiments in steel have been made, but have never resulted in

the production of a toboggan equal in speed and convenience of weight to that of the modern flyer.

AS A CONVEYANCE FOR SPORT

or pastime the toboggan is of comparatively recent origin. Upon the hills which abound throughout Canada the Canadians took advantage of the natural slides offered, and within a season or two after the sport was first introduced in the vicinity of Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and other cities of the Dominion, it became immensely popular among Canadians through that entire country. The great difficulty of tobogganists, however, was in securing a slide of perfect grade and smoothness. The natural resiliency of the toboggan causes a peculiar condition of things, not unattended with danger, when it strikes a sudden depression or elevation during its rapid flight, for as a natural result of its elasticity it will throw its burden or occupants high into the air—unless the same be firmly attached to the hand rails—and this, too, with a reckless disregard of result somewhat uncomfortable for the rider.

These defects in a natural slide are called by Canadians *cahots*, and many are the laughable accidents as well as sore limbs and bruises that have resulted from them.

To overcome this objection Canadian enthusiasts in the sport introduced the artificial slide, which had long been popular in Russia, and which consists

simply of a scaffolding of heavy timbers, the highest point of which may be forty or even fifty feet from the ground with a gradual descent, sufficiently steep, however, to give the tobogganists the impetus desired. The famous slide of the Teuque Bleue Toboggan Club at Montreal and that at Woodlawn Park, Saratoga, are at the starting point forty feet from the ground, the descent being one hundred and twenty feet long. The distance traveled over the artificial slide is of course only the beginning of the sport, for the toboggan has attained its greatest impetus only when it reaches the earth, and will travel upon the level track a distance three or four times as great as that of the slide proper. In Russia the double slide is quite popular, that is in other words, two slides set opposite one another, the tracks running parallel so that when the tobogganist starts from the top of one slide he is at the base of the tower of the other slide, and has only to ascend the steps to ride back to the base of the tower from which he first started. The single slide, however, is most popular in America.

THE ARTIFICIAL SLIDE.

At the top of the tower is a platform from which the tobogganist starts, and leading downward from this, at an angle of say forty-five degrees, are the chutes (it being usual to have two, three or four chutes to one structure) in which the toboggan runs.

These chutes and the track beyond are packed very firmly with snow, over which water is poured until it freezes into a solid mass of ice from six to eight inches deep. The chute is from four to six feet in width, and protected upon each side by flaring boards to prevent the toboggan and its load leaving the track laterally. The ice track is carefully planed and swept until its surface is smooth and glistening as glass itself. A loaded toboggan over such a surface and at the angle upon which the regulation slide is constructed, will attain a marvelous rate of speed which, in the majority of instances, and with all conditions favorable, reaches a mile per minute, or even more. Indeed, the manufacturers of the now celebrated "Star" toboggan, made in Burlington, Vt., openly advertise the fact that upon that toboggan, shod with steel, a speed of three miles per minute may be attained with perfect safety. The timidly inclined may regard such sport with horror, but in truth the chances for accident are one in ten thousand, and it is doubtful if any occur even in this ratio. No such occurrence as a tobogganist having fallen from the chute has ever been recorded, and the worst that can happen is the upsetting or whirling around of the toboggan after it leaves the chute and enters the track, in which event its occupants are treated to a plunge in the snow or a trifling shaking up. Even this, however, rarely occurs, when the steersman is experienced in handling the vehicle.

TOBOGGAN COSTUMES.

Not the least of the attractions in tobogganing lies in the picturesque beauty of the costumes worn. These, for both ladies and gentlemen, are fashioned from soft woolen blankets of blue, scarlet, orange, old gold, pink, purple and other attractive colors, either solid or tastefully blended, and when a toboggan slide is in full blast the scene presented under the glare of the electric light or the lurid glow of the torch is certainly one never to be forgotten by participant or beholder. For gentlemen the costume consists usually of a blouse with a frock which covers the hips and buttons tightly down the front, knee breeches, warm woolen stockings and moccasins, the head being covered by a *tuque* of the same brilliant hue as the sash which is wrapped twice around the waist, the tasseled end falling over the left hip. For ladies the costume consists of a long cloak buttoning down the front, and confined by a sash like that worn by her escort, moccasins, and a *tuque*. Every article of these costumes is fashioned from the woolen blankets referred to, and are made with as much skill in cut and finish as the art of the tailor can command.

HOW TO STEER.

Formerly the toboggan was steered by a short stick of wood held in each hand of the steerer, but now the steerer guides the course of his conveyance with

the toe of his foot, taking his position if there be two or more in the toboggan, at the rear end and resting upon his right side to steer with the left foot, which should trail gracefully behind, or upon the left side, to steer with the right foot. The toe of the steerer is lightly applied to the track from time to time as he may see the craft requires guidance. The right foot is usually used in steering, but the steerer may employ either, it being considered an accomplishment to be able to steer with one foot as well as the other. The steerer may kneel, may rest upon his hip or side, or may occupy any position that is most agreeable and effective. As the toboggan runs upon a broad, flat surface it is much easier to guide than the sled, and is readily responsive to the slightest touch of the moccasined toe which directs its course.

CANADIAN VS. AMERICAN TOBOGGANS.

The manufacture of toboggans in the United States is an enterprise of comparatively late date, and even in Canada, the birth-place of tobogganing, the American manufactured toboggan is now greatly in demand. An authority on the subject was asked by the writer about the comparative merits of the Canadian toboggans and those made at Burlington and elsewhere in this country. "The Canadian toboggans," he said, "are not constructed on scientific principles. At any rate, those of them which I have seen were not. In the first place I don't think maple

is as good a material as hickory. Then again, I don't approve of *rigid* wooden rails along the sides ; they stiffen the toboggan so that all the spring is taken out of it. The first principle in the construction of a toboggan ought to be to make it springy, like a whip. Most Canadian toboggans are perfectly smooth and flat on the bottom. Now that's a mistake ; three or four of the planks only ought to come in contact with the ice, and they should be rounded off so that the friction may be reduced to the minimum. The best toboggan I ever saw was of hickory, with three wooden strips, about as thick as two of your fingers, raised from the bottom to serve as runners. One of the best points about it was that the screws and rivets did not come through the bottom at all, and that is very important, since if the screws project the least bit they will tear the ice all to pieces and spoil the slide. Besides, the snow gets into the holes where the screws are sunk, and makes the bottom of the toboggan rough. The toboggan I speak of was a trifle heavier than I like, for though a heavy toboggan goes a little faster, it is harder to pull up hill, and if there is an accident there is more likelihood of getting hurt."

THE STAR.

The most prominent and seemingly successful manufacturers of toboggans at the present time is a Burlington, Vt., firm. They make the celebrated "*Star*" toboggan, which has been from the first the acknowl-

edged standard in clubs and with private individuals and experts, simply because it is constructed with an understanding of the necessary requirements. The essential features of the "Star" are a toboggan made of slats, and the slats shaped to lessen the frictional surface. The old Indian form was perfectly flat on the bearing surface, and formed of one or two pieces of thin wood, and besides lacking the requisite strength and lateral resiliency, it offered the greatest resistance, or frictional surface to the snow. For this reason all flat toboggans are comparatively slow. Instead of the riveted side rails formerly used, which proved to be too stiff in long toboggans, the "Star" has a light oak or hickory rail, which passes through a patent fixture, and being fastened at one point only, permits a free, bending movement of the toboggan. This of course is a great improvement over the more rigid rail.

A six-foot "Star" toboggan weighs only fourteen pounds, is a marvel of strength, beauty, and obedience to the will of the steerer, and may attain a speed of three miles a minute with perfect safety. Think of it.

LIFE IN MONTREAL.

II.

A GLIMPSE OF CANADIAN WINTER LIFE AS SEEN AT MONTREAL.

“A winter in Canada! I think I should rather spend it there than anywhere else on the face of this broad earth,” said a young Montrealese to me one afternoon last winter, as we sat in the parlors of a famous Chicago club house on Michigan avenue, and watched the continual stream of sleighs on their way to and from the boulevards.

“What! and freeze to death?” I asked.

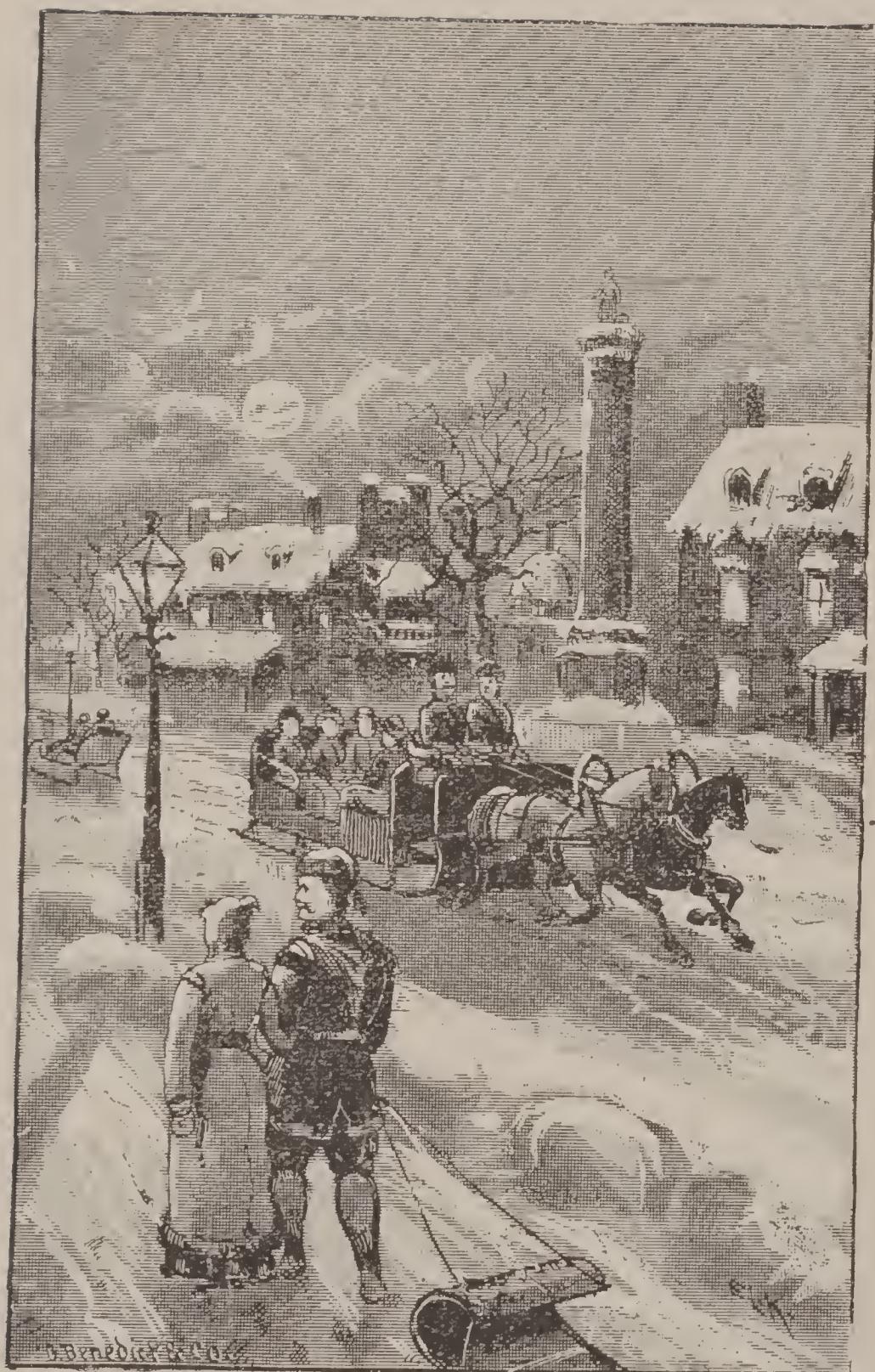
My friend laughed. “No, old fellow,” said he, “you’d have no time for freezing, if you were possessed of good health and a reasonable amount of activity. There is no country on the globe—and I have visited a good many of them—wherein the inhabitants so thoroughly enjoy the season beginning with November 15 and lasting until March 1, as do the Canadians. They are a hardy set, with the natural indifference to exposure that results from the character of that climate, and it is when the snow falls that you see the sport-loving side of the Canadian gentleman’s character. I have said Canadian

gentleman. I should have included our women as well, for there are few Canadian winter sports in which they do not participate. I go to Canada next week for a fortnight's stay at my home in Montreal. Why not join me?"

"Ugh! It is the middle of January," I replied, as a cold shiver passed over me with the thought of experiencing what I had always imagined a Canadian winter to be.

"Just the time we want to be there, and I will warrant that you will find it no colder in Montreal than it is upon the shore of Lake Michigan to-day."

How my fears were overcome I do not know even now, but ten days later I was unpacking my trunk in the ancestral home of my friend, a fine old house which stood some four miles from Montreal in one of that historic city's quaintest and prettiest suburbs. Dick's father was a typical Canadian gentleman, a barrister of some note and possessed of an ample fortune, and Dick's sisters, three in number, were—I thought when I first saw their rosy cheeks and bright eyes in the roomy, old fashioned sleigh that awaited us at the depot—the prettiest, most wholly irresistible specimens of young womanhood I had ever had the good fortune to look upon. It was but a few moments before the spirited grays had whirled us through the streets of the quaint yet withal handsomely constructed city, and out into the broad highway beyond, which led to Dick's home. The snow



THROUGH THE STREETS OF MONTREAL.

was the same, with many additional falls, that had covered the earth during the preceding November, and was packed so hard and firm by constant travel that it seemed an interminable glare of ice. The air was cold and bracing but dry as a whip, and the glistening crystals of snow in the roadway danced and sparkled under the silvery light of the moon, as though they had been so many polished diamonds. As we passed though the streets of the city I became impressed with the noticeable air of life and gaiety with which every one seemed imbued. The lights in the shop windows shone out upon the stalwart forms of manly looking fellows in seal skin caps and gauntlets. The jingle of sleigh bells from scores of teams other than our own, and the quick beat of horses' hoofs were heard upon every side, while merry laughter from girlish throats added to the happy, irresponsible *tout ensemble* of our surroundings. "Surely," thought I, "my first impressions of a Canadian winter are pleasant enough." Out on the highway we passed a four in hand with a merry load that bubbled over with cheer and laughter as we passed them, and when finally we swept out of the road and into the long drive that wound through the grounds of "the Castle," I saw the cheery glow of the grate fires through the frosted windows of one of the most hospitable old mansions in all Canada.

I wish it were within the power of my pen to describe Canadian winter life as I saw it and shared in

it during the fortnight that followed, and at the same time carry with the description a conception of the rare enjoyment to be derived from the cold, bracing atmosphere, the exhilarating effects of ice skating, the snow-shoe tramp, the toboggan slide, the sleighing jaunt, and the score of other pastimes in which the Canadians indulge with an abandon and degree of enthusiasm I have never seen equaled outside of the Dominion. The Canadian, it seems, is never happier than when the snow falls, and when the first feathery flakes of an approaching winter begin to whiten the ground, Montreal seems suddenly imbued with a new lease of life. Business is forgotten in one mad whirl of gaiety. Ice rinks throw open their doors. Toboggan slides are "packed and watered." Snow shoes are taken down from the hooks upon which they have hung all summer, club uniforms are shaken out, badges burnished up, and toboggans dragged from their resting places in preparation for the sport of the coming season. The ice palace—now world famed—is constructed. The crisp snow on street and footpath is crushed beneath the heel of citizen and tourist. Bright eyes and rosy cheeks; athletic figures and manly faces; heartborn laughter and careless song, are seen and heard whichever way one may turn, and in the glare of electric light or the gleam of the torch; the crash of music and the dazzling array of brilliant costumes and lovely faces; the flash of steel runner and the whirl of the

feathery snow, care is forgotten, and the work-a-day worry of business and home life is put aside in one ecstatic and seemingly reckless whirl of pleasure which begins with the coming of the snow king, and ends only with his going.

As I listened to the music and watched the panoramic scene presented by the brightly costumed skaters as they swept over the glistening surface of Victoria rink; as I stood at the top of the Teuque Bleue slide, down which an hundred merry coasters were flying, and at the foot of which were gathered five hundred steel-gearred equipages, their horses restlessly champing their bridle chains and shaking the bells that arched over their backs, while happy faces peered from the folds of wolfrobe and sealskin; as I looked upon the glittering walls of the Ice Palace, and as mounted upon my snow-shoes, I held the mittened hand of Dick's youngest sister in a glorious moonlight "Shoe-tramp" cross country, the thought came unbidden to my mind, "Where art thou, Chicago? Where art thou, New York? With all thy greatness; with all thy wealth and grandeur; with all thy beauty, thrift and enterprise? Thou hast none of these."

ON THE SLIDE.

III.

AN AFTERNOON UPON A MONTREAL TOBOGGAN SLIDE.

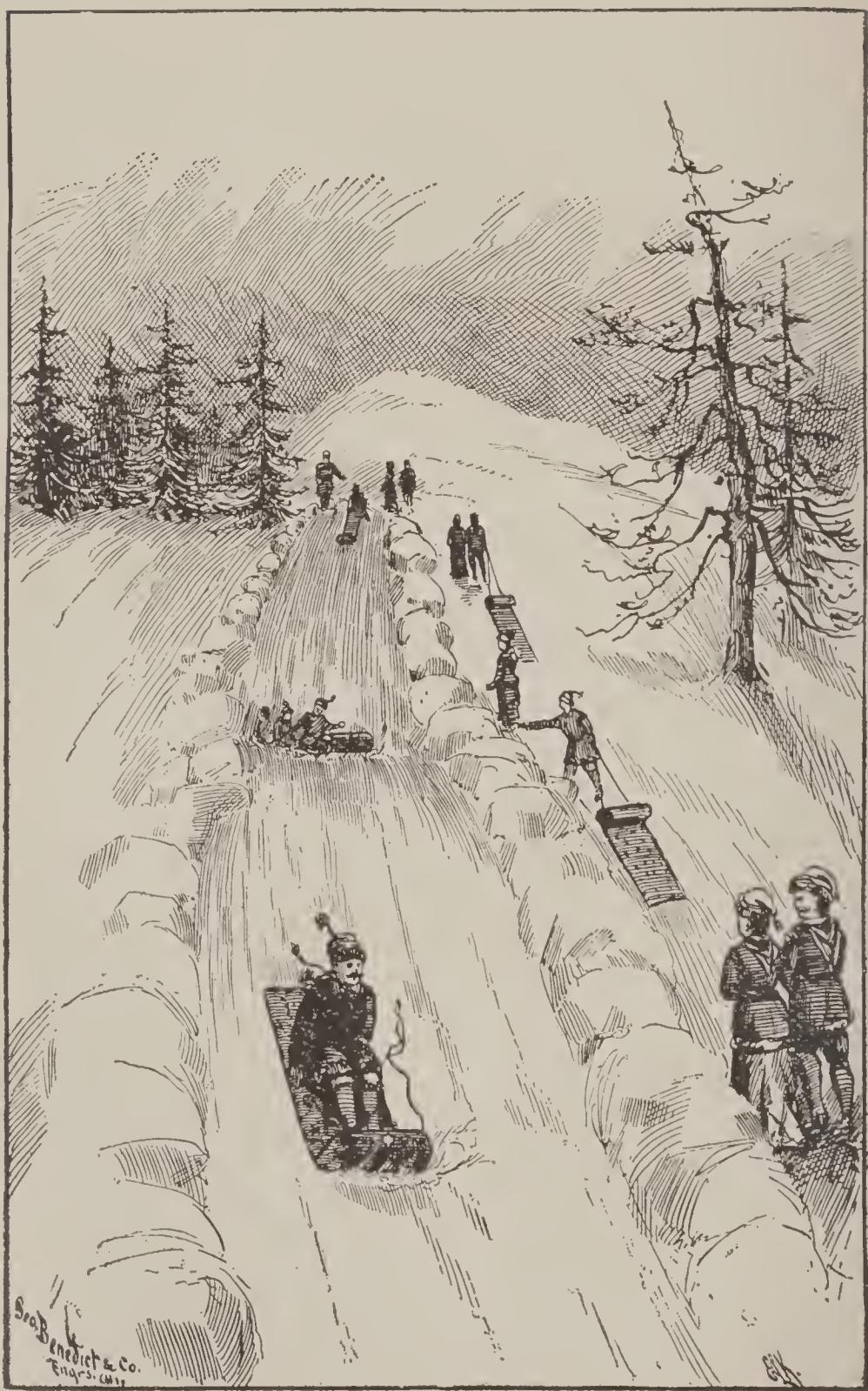
It was the morning of my second day's stay at "the Castle," and Dick and myself were seated in the library enjoying an after breakfast cigar. Outside the earth was white with a glorious mantle of snow, and from the heavy clouds overhead the feathery flakes were falling thick and fast, the wind catching them up in great gusts and whirling them hither and thither around the stone walls of the old house, while it shrieked as with laughter at the boisterous sport it was enjoying.

"Did you ever toboggan, Harry?" asked my friend.

"No, but I am willing to be initiated," I replied.

"All right, my lad, we'll initiate you this afternoon, if the storm lets up. The girls have arranged a party in honor of our arrival, and we will go over to 'the hill' this afternoon. Our party will lunch *en costume*; and, by the way, we must be looking up our rigs."

It is a poorly equipped house in Canada that has



ON THE SLIDE.

not some compartment, some nook or corner set apart for the storage of the various riggings and outfits used in the enjoyment of both summer and winter sports. Such a room there was in "the Castle," and along its walls hung innumerable pairs of snow shoes, three feet in length and upward. An extra suit of Dick's seemed to have been made for myself expressly, and when a score of gaily costumed, happy faced young men and women sat down to the well spread board in "the Castle" dining hall I was on equal footing with them in grotesqueness of apparel.

"How is the slide, Nell?" asked Dick of his elder sister.

"All right, I guess," was her answer. "The storm has come to a halt, and I have sent the men down to sweep it off. It was smooth as marble the day before you came."

"Why, Mr. H., how well your toboggan suit becomes you," said Dick's younger sister, the girl whom I was beginning to think was the fairest thing I had yet seen in Canada, and with a gratified glance at my tasty rigging, I mentally determined that thereafter I would wear a toboggan suit during every remaining day of my stay at "the Castle."

Short-lived determination! How soon my pride and gratification at the picturesque—and perhaps at that moment becoming—style of my toboggan suit received a disastrous fall; a fall which I felt for some

days afterward, the succeeding lines of this chapter may best tell. We were a merry party, as dragging our toboggans after us, or carrying them under our arms, we tramped along the highway to "the hill." (I have forgotten what Dick called it, but it was the club slide of the toboggan club of which the majority of our party were members; and there are a hundred such organizations of greater or less importance in Montreal and vicinity.) When we arrived at the foot of the slide we were joined by others of the club, and there, stretching away up the side of the hill, was the long, glistening roadway with nearly an eighth of a mile incline, and fully a third of a mile of well packed track stretching from its base across the adjoining meadow.

The men had worked diligently, and the snow that had been swept from the surface of the solidly frozen slide was banked up in ridges on either side, leaving a long roadway of glaring ice as solid as the frozen surface of Lake Michigan.

Up the hill we clambered, and as I felt the gloved hand of Dick's younger sister upon my sustaining arm, I wished the climb might have been twice the distance, and right here I want to say that if ever a woman looks fresh and young and irresistibly lovely it is when at the top of a climb up a toboggan slide she stops with her cheeks flushed, her lips parted, and her eyes shining with the exertion of the tramp. At least I thought so when I glanced into the glowing

face of my pretty companion. What a sight it was to look back down the slide as we stood at the starting point. The clouds had blown over, and now the sun shone down with dazzling brightness upon the snow-covered landscape, causing the burnished surface of the slide to look like a long stretch of polished silver as it swept down the side of the hill and across the meadow lands in the distance. Just beyond the foot of the incline stood the zig-zag rails of a farm fence, and these, together with a few scattered clumps of trees along the side of the slide, were the only existing objects to break the mantle of white that covered the hillside.

“Now, Harry, for a slide such as you never had in your life before,” said Dick, interrupting my contemplation of what to me was one of the most beautiful views I had ever enjoyed. “We’ll take ‘The Major,’ Nell,” continued Dick to his sister, selecting one of the largest and heaviest of the toboggans we had brought with us, and swinging it around into position, with its nose pointed down-hill. “On you go, Nell,” and the young lady took her position upon the fore end of the conveyance. “Now, Harry. Now, Regina;” and with Dick’s younger sister seated behind me, I firmly grasped a side rail with each hand. A glance to the rear showed me Dick getting into position to steer. “Hold on to her, old man, and look out for *cahots*,” he said in a warning voice as he caught my eye, and before I could reply



AT THE TOP OF THE SLIDE.

the young Montrealese cast one sweeping glance down the slide, and then "*Let her go!*" came from his lusty young lungs. The toboggan seemed to fairly jump into the air at the signal, as the strong arm of a young tobogganist gave us the start; and then—the blood seemed to rush back to my heart and seek its innermost chamber as a hiding place. There was a rush and a swishing sound, as "*The Major*" shot over the polished surface of the slide with a speed that I had never before experienced, and I have ridden sixty miles an hour upon a railway train on more than one occasion. To breathe was difficult; to speak was impossible. The world seemed to be suddenly sinking beneath us, and we, together with the hill behind us, seemed plunging down into eternity, or some other place I wot not of. I tried to fix my eye upon the fence or the trees I had seen from the top of the slide, but in vain. The landscape seemed to have suddenly gone scampering away in every direction, and everything seemed to be falling with us. "*Hold on, Harry,*" came from behind me, and simultaneously with the warning the toboggan seemed to rise in the air, as we struck what I afterward learned was a *cahot*, or a sudden sharp raise in the ground under the ice, and then seemed to literally leave the surface and fly through the air to the bottom of the incline, which we struck with a crash that must have driven my spinal column through the back of my neck, had it not been for the

soft cushion beneath us. We did not stop here, but sped on and on across the meadow, the blinding sensation having stopped with the end of the incline, although we were still rushing over the ground at a speed I never thought it possible for any object to attain, and when finally I heard Dick's cheery voice asking me how I liked it, and looked up to see him assisting the girls from the toboggan, I felt precisely as a man feels when he awakens from a dream, and amidst strange surroundings.

“Pretty rapid, eh?” asked Dick, smiling at my dazed look, and then I heard a merry laugh as Dick's younger sister jumped from the seat upon the cushion, and I was reminded thereby how very stupid I must look seated alone upon the toboggan, the worst “rattled” man in the Dominion of Canada.

Soon we were tramping up the path beside the slide, and as I glanced up the hill and saw another toboggan load on the down grade, I involuntarily stopped and stepped backward as the trio on the flyer shot by me with the speed of the wind. Again that delightful walk to the summit with a pretty face close to my shoulder, and then again that soul stirring, breath-stealing, but exhilarating and glorious shoot over the glistening surface of the slide. After we had enjoyed half a dozen such, Dick suggested that I take a whirl by myself. I had begun to get accustomed to the terrific pace, and with each descent, my confidence increased so that when the



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TRIALS OF A NOVICE ON A NATURAL SLIDE.

idea was suggested, I accepted it without a moment's hesitation. Dick selected a light toboggan for me, and gave me the necessary points in steering, advising me to sit bolt upright and use my hands to steer as it was much the easier. Fifteen seconds later I would have given almost anything I possessed had Dick and his suggestion been in the United States, for no sooner had that miserable and treacherous concern got started in its mad career than I lost what little head I seemed to have possessed at the outset, and unconsciously made a desperate clutch for the icy surface with my left hand, which of course threw the toboggan around to one side. After scraping along in the midst of a shower of ice and snow, the toboggan and my very much mortified self rolled and slid—me upon the seat of my unmentionables—to the bottom of the hill. The peal of laughter that floated down from the top of the slide, where half our party were congregated, did not tend to increase my temper or my self-composure, and I picked myself and my flyer out of the snowbank and started up hill just as a pretty face in a blue *tuque*, whom I fancied was one I knew well, shot by me with a big broad shouldered fellow guiding her after the manner of an artist. That I was *not* an artist, I was thoroughly convinced, but that I was none the less bent upon becoming one I was equally determined. A little kindly advice from Dick, a firm gritting of my teeth, and I was again ready for the word. This time I

“kept my head” admirably as I thought, and away I flew with a speed that increased with each second of time. “Ah, me grrul! I’ll touch you lightly this time,” I muttered, and I fancy I smiled as I reflected that the blue *tuque*, and her artist guide must pass me on their return up the hill.

“Whoop!” Nothing but mortal terror ever brought that peculiar exclamation from my lips, and this time it came out with all the terror behind it that could possibly have been crowded into my soul. What had happened I did not know; I did not want to know. I was dimly conscious of the fact that I was sailing skyward; that I was leaving the earth beneath me, and in the next instant that I was returning even faster than I went, and then—

When I opened my eyes I was stretched out upon the snow, with a dozen eager faces bending over me. From one of these a blue *tuque* had been pushed back and the prettiest eyes in Canada were looking into mine, while Dick pressed the mouth of a pocket flask to my lips. The side of my head felt as though a brick wall had fallen upon it, and when I lifted my arm from the snow I saw a smirch of something that looked very much like blood upon the sleeve of my white woolen blouse.

“You forgot that *cahot*, old fellow,” said Dick in a cheery voice. “It would bounce a single man ten feet in the air where it would not affect a party of four very greatly, you understand. Better now?”



A NOVICE "TAKING A CAHOT."

Just how sore I was I did not know until I awoke next morning, but notwithstanding my bruised limbs and the strip of court plaster over my left ear I resolutely returned to the slide, the next afternoon, determined to master that toboggan if I had to wear it and myself out in the effort. I held on to the side rails whenever I passed that *cahot* afterward and before I had spent two hours at the hill, had the art mastered so that I could guide like a veteran. That night and the next we attended club slides at the hill, and if the sport is attractive in daylight it is doubly so by torch and moonlight. Light ash poles with a torch swinging at one end thereof are stuck into the snow on each side, and at regular intervals along the slide, and by the ruddy glow of the flaring smoking lamps, the grotesque and brilliant colored costumes of the tobogganists present a scene that one can surely never forget.

“ You shall take me down the slide to-night, Mr. Harry,” said the blue *tuque*, as we were on our way to the hill the night after my accident. (It had been “Mr. Harry” since the date of my mishap.) And I *did* take her down, not once or twice, but many times that night, the next, and the next, and am quite sure that in all Canada, tobogganing had no greater enthusiast than my humble self. Nor was the blue *tuque* alone responsible for my enthusiasm, for of all the sports I ever participated in none can equal in excitement, healthful physical exercise, and real ex-

hilarion than that of tobogganing. The enjoyment one experiences is strangely mingled with an undefined fear that would naturally take possession of a novice when traveling through the air upon so frail a looking craft as a toboggan at more than railroad speed, and can perhaps be best illustrated by the remark of an American girl whom I saw at the slide just after her first trip on a toboggan.

“Isn’t it perfectly glorious?” said she, with glowing cheeks and flashing eyes. “I would not have missed the opportunity for the whole of Montreal.”

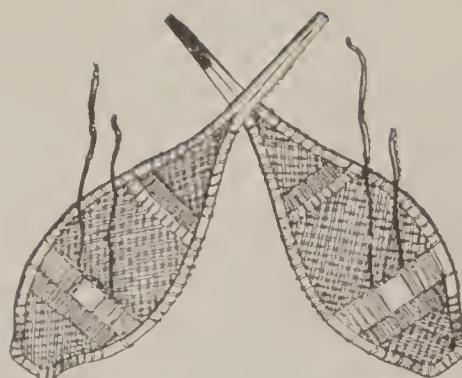
“Let us take another whirl,” suggested her escort.

“Not for the whole of Canada,” was the prompt reply, but within ten minutes after she was at it again, and finally left Montreal a confirmed tobogganist. Without question, tobogganing stands alone as a healthful and delightful winter pastime. It strengthens one’s lungs, invigorates his body, and tones up his nerves as no nerve tonic ever could. Talk about *nerve food* or *nerve tonic*! Why, there never was a drug invented that can compare with the strength-giving quality of EXERCISE. Exercise for the nerves is what is wanted. Gymnasiums have been invented for the bone and muscle, and have done a world of good, but where is the machine to properly exercise the nerves? It is the *toboggan*. Let your nerves feel the thrill of a swift-flying trip down a good steep toboggan-slide, and they will get



NIGHT SCENE ON A TOBOGGAN SLIDE.

an actual exercise and use that hardly anything else in this world can give. There your nerve tonic is drawn free from generous nature's everlasting fountain of health—pure air. "Nerve food," indeed! What food can compare with such nerve *exercise* as that, while the lungs are filled with the ozone of the air of a clear winter's night? Strengthen your nerves by *use* and you get a strong and better *heart action* as well. This is no fancy, but a fact founded on scientific truth. A prominent member of the Saratoga Toboggan Club told the writer that when he first joined the club his nerves were very weak, and any little excitement made his hands tremble, and his heart beat faster. His first slide nearly unmanned him. He tried it but once that day, but fascinated with the sport, he soon became one of the most active members of the club, and has ever since been strongly conscious of a *better heart action* and more strength of nerve.



SNOW SHOEING.

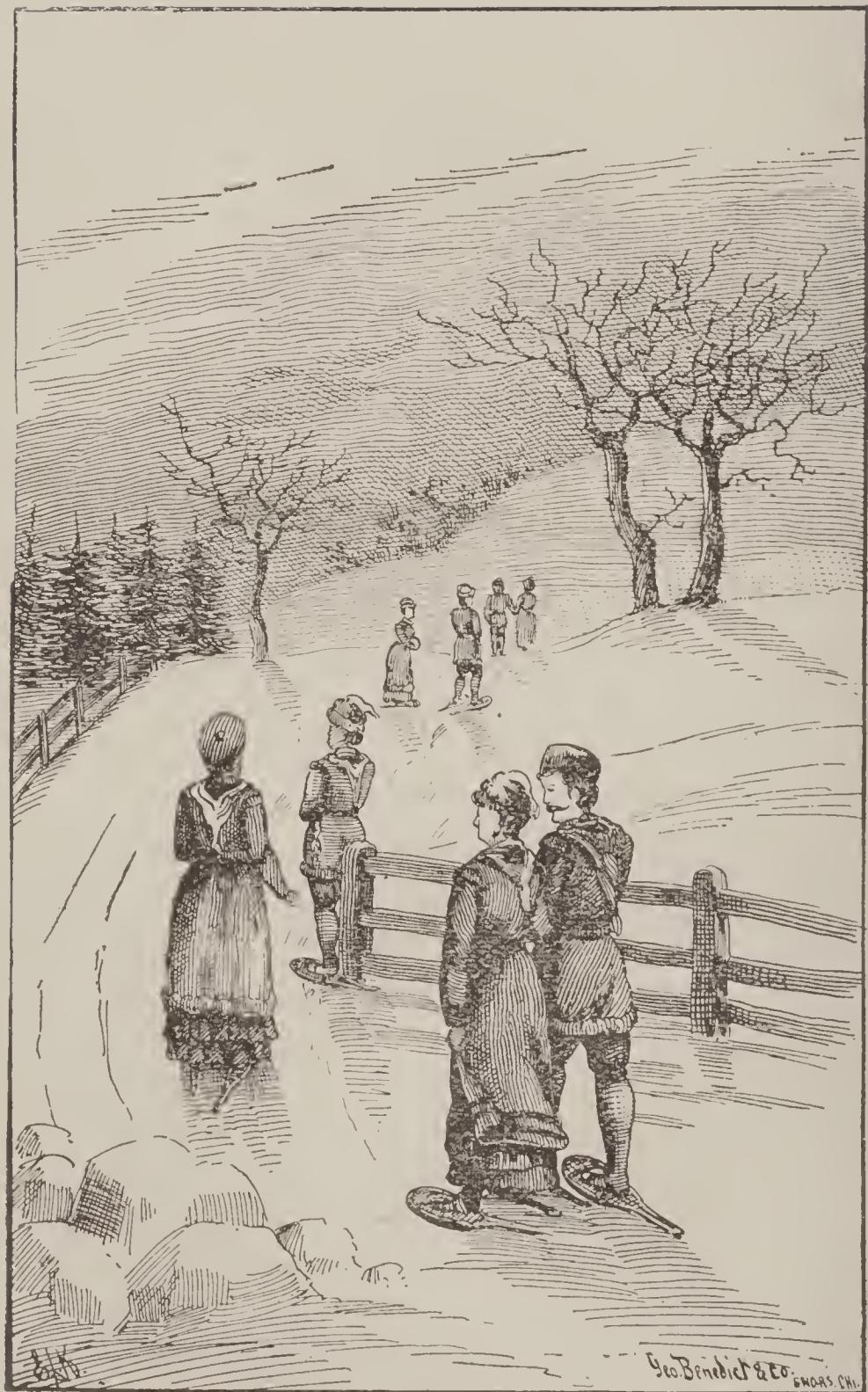
IV.

A TRAMP CROSS-COUNTRY BY MOONLIGHT AND TORCHES.

In addition to the delights of tobogganing however, I had still to be initiated in a sport equally as interesting and novel, that of snow-shoeing, and I received my first intimation of it one morning at the breakfast table when "the blue *tuque*" announced that "the Castle" had been selected at the last club meeting as the rendezvous for the next shoe tramp, which was to take place that evening. "We shall walk to Twombley's," said she, "by the hill route and if the moon is shining it should be a delightful tramp, for the air is cold and dry as a whip."

"It does not look any too promising for moonlight, Reggie," said Dick, with a glance through the window at the leaden colored clouds. "Guess I'd better fix up the torches."

"Well if it snows, so much the better," said "the blue *tuque*."



A CLUB TRAMP IN CANADA.

Geo. Benedict & Co.
ENGRS. CHI.

“Look here Dick,” said I to my host after breakfast, “how the deuce am I going to get over the ground on those tennis bats? I never was on a pair of them in my life.”

“That’s a fact,” ruminated Dick. “I hadn’t thought of that. Guess I’ll have to break you in a bit beforehand,” and going to the store room my Canuck friend soon reappeared with two pairs of what he termed “snow skimmers,” but which looked to me like the most unwieldy arrangements ever invented to fit upon a man’s foot, and here I may give my American readers something of an idea as to the looks, construction, and uses of this ancient foot gearing, for it is as old as the toboggan itself, and like the sled of the Northmen is an invention of the Esquimau and North American Indian. Certainly no invention better adapted to the purpose for which it is intended could have been invented, although civilization is indebted for it to the untutored red man and the Laplander.

The shoe in general appearance is not unlike a tennis bat, as I had facetiously referred to it in my conversation with Dick. The frame is made of a single strip of hickory or ash, as light in weight as it is possible to obtain. This is bent double until the ends meet and then bound together for a distance of six or ten inches—according to the intended length of the shoe—until a long oval, terminating in a sort of tail, is produced. A thin piece of flat wood is then fit-

ted in the oval extending across the frame and about six inches from the broad end, and a second piece a foot or so from this to strengthen the frame and give it as much elasticity as possible. From side to side the oval is then woven with deer thongs or tendons forming a delicate basketwork surface capable of sustaining upon the surface of the snow the weight of the heaviest man. In walking with the snow shoe only the toe is fastened to it by a toe strap, and two pieces of deer skin which pass over the instep and are fixed at the back of the ankle. In order that the heel of the wearer may rise and fall and the toe sink so as not to impede his progress, a hole is left in the center of the basket work just under the toe strap, and into this the toe of the wearer sinks with every forward step. The movement is a peculiar gliding one, wholly unlike that of the natural walk, the snow shoe being slipped along over the white crystals rather than raised and planted down as in ordinary walking. The snow shoes used by the Indians measure from three to six feet in length, and from twelve to twenty inches in breadth, although the regulation tramping shoe of the Canadian shoe clubs is from ten to fourteen inches in width, and from three and one half to five feet in length. The costumes adopted by the Canadian clubs differ in color according of course to club uniform rules, but in cut are very similar to the toboggan costume, consisting of a blanket coat or cloak, with sash and *tugue* and knee breeches, and

warm wool stockings for the gentlemen. Both sexes wear warm wool lined moccasins. His snow shoes are as important an item in the equipment of the Canadian huntsman as is his gun or his cartridge belt; to the logman as is his axe; and to the Indian buck as is his bow and quiver. They are frequently used by the Canadian troops in overland marches, and in the less thickly inhabited districts where the villagers may have to walk long distances over trackless wastes of snow to reach their educational institutes or their places of worship, it is a common thing to see school children and adults mounted upon snow shoes as they tramp their way to the village school and church. The tramps of the Montreal snow shoe clubs are looked forward to by their members with undisguised delight and impatience during the summer months, and are certainly most delightful institutions. So crisp, and clear and cold is the Canadian winter air, that the moonlight nights are bright enough to enable one to read fine print, and thus lighted by Luna's gentle glow, the gaily costumed snow shoers trod the crust of the white mantle, up hill and down, through forest and open, along highways and skirting hedges, over fences and ditches—for the expert snow shoer does not hesitate a moment at an ordinary five rail fence--until, after having laughed and flirted, chatted and tumbled, they draw up at their destination, with the warm blood coursing through their veins and glowing in their faces, hungry enough to render



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AN EXPERT TAKING A FENCE.

desolate the first larder accessible. Should the moon not be "out," the path of the "tramps" is lighted by flaring torches swung at the ends of short sticks and carried over the shoulders of the gentlemen, and almost any dark winter night the woodlands surrounding Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Kingston and the other populous towns and cities of the Dominion are filled with such parties. In their regular club tramps which often extend eighteen, twenty, and twenty-five miles of an evening, the members of the Montreal, the Emerald, the St. George's, Maple Leaf, Argyle, Athletic, Custom House, Prince of Wales, and the score or more of other snow shoeing clubs in and about Montreal, are unattended by ladies, and give themselves up to the royal time they invariably enjoy. But to return to the system of breaking in, to which I was subjected by Dick on the morning in question.

In anticipation of the ridiculous figure a novice would cut upon a pair of snow shoes, and wishing to impress the girls with the idea that I was a veteran "tramp," when the time came for the club walk that evening, I induced Dick to adjourn to a level stretch of snow a half a mile distant from the big house, and there instruct me in the first principles of the art. The shoes were soon attached to my feet and there I stood helplessly, while my tutor adjusted his own foot gearing.

"Now, my boy, strike out," said Dick, as he moved gracefully off over the soft, deep snow. It

looked easy enough, and I forthwith "struck out," but with exceeding caution, for I had heard of the treacherous character of the snow-shoe, even though I had never tested it. Slowly I slipped the (to me) cumbersome things over the surface of the snow, and was surprised to find that, after all, snow-shoeing was not so difficult a feat as I had imagined, and growing bolder with the discovery, I essayed Dick's free and confident air. One peculiarity about snow-shoeing is that when a fellow thinks he has got the knack down pretty fine, he is most apt to be brought to a sudden realization that what he *don't* know about it would fill any book ever published; and so it was with me, for within ten seconds after my first flush of confidence, I planted the toe of my right shoe upon the inner edge of my left, and plunged head forward into a three-foot drift, from which I extricated myself only with Dick's assistance. With my soul full of determination and my neck full of melting snow, I went at it again; however, and for two hours I staggered and stumbled, floundered and tumbled, beat the air with my arms and the snow with my feet, until finally tired out and exhausted, I seated myself upon a snow-covered log and gloomily reviewed the very much disordered course over which I had received my first lesson in snow-shoeing.

"I guess you can count me out of the party to-night, Dick," I said between my gasps, as I pulled off my *tuque* and mopped my perspiring brow.

“Nonsense,” said Dick, who stood near me, resting easily upon one shoe and tapping the snow with the frame of the other; “you have gone through the worst of it, and when the knack comes, it comes like ice-skating—all at once. Now try it again. Glide the shoes over one another—like this—so as not to weaken you and tire you out. Raise the shoe lightly with the toe when taking an advance step, so that the end will trail; keep your head up and throw your shoulders back, and it will come as easily as walking over flag-stones. Now try it. We will make for that fence at the end of the field.”

How could a man fail after such minute instruction as this, and be voted other than exceedingly stupid? With considerably less confidence in my ability than Dick seemed to have, I carefully got upon my feet and made a start. To my surprise I did not go down, and with each step my confidence increased.

“You’ve got it, old fellow; you’ve got it *dead to rights!*” cried Dick, encouragingly. “Don’t raise the shoe quite so high. That’s it.” And I finally took a seat upon the fence at the edge of the field, conscious that I had walked a quarter of a mile without a mishap. It came easily after this and when finally Dick suggested that we walk back to the house upon our shoes, I jumped at the suggestion, and reached the big portico without an accident. Eureka! I was at last master of the contrivance, and “the blue *tuque*” should not want for an expert escort on the evening’s tramp.

When night fell upon "the Castle," the snow commenced to fall with it from the dark leaden-colored clouds above, and all hopes of a moonlight night were given up.

"Never mind, we'll have the torches to light us," said the blue *tuque*, "and I should a thousand times rather walk in the flying snow than by moonlight. It's getting colder too. I had not hoped for such good luck."

I looked at this bright eyed, rosy-faced Canadian girl, whose lithe and graceful figure, perfect complexion, and earnest, impulsive, animated disposition denoted perfect physical and ideal womanhood, and thought, as I heard her declaring her love for the cold, crisp air and the whirling snows of a Canadian winter, and at the prospect of taking a walk in which she seemed delighted: "This, then, is the secret of Canadian women's well developed and symmetrical figures; their bright eyes and fresh complexions; their elastic step and graceful carriage, which stamps the Canadian girl even upon the streets of cosmopolitan New York or Chicago."

It was a merry, brightly costumed crowd of young Canadians that came down upon "the Castle" in doubles and quartettes that evening; shortly after seven o'clock, twoscore or more of them stood in the great hall of the hospitable old mansion. The uniforms of both young men and women were alike in color, being white, with *tuques*, sashes, and stock-

ings of bright blue, the feet of all being encased in warm thick moccasins, and all carrying their snow-shoes swung over their left shoulders. A piece of the golden-hued snow-crusted cake that had been provided for all; a bit of rich red Burgundy to keep out the cold, and then shortly before eight o'clock, snow-shoes were strapped on, *tuques* pulled over ears, hands thrust into gauntlets and sashes bound more tightly about manly and womanly waists, and each man seizing a torch, singled out the young woman who had elected to bear his mishaps with him in the tramp, and away we started in single file across the broad lawn, with Dick and his sister Nell bringing up the rear as "whippers in." I experienced no trouble this time. The lesson of the morning had been an effective one, and if I did not walk like a veteran, I at least walked well enough to conceal the fact that I was enjoying my first tramp, and the light of my torch flashed upon "the blue *tuque*" at my side, for whose sake I had undergone the battle of the morning. The snow was coming down in a gentle fall, and the air was cold, dry and bracing. Across the lawn tramped our party, their torches looking like a big serpent of fire winding its way over the mantle of snow that covered the earth to a depth of two feet or more, the grotesque style of the uniforms, with their bright *tuques* and sashes, the smoky glare of the torches and the happy laughter and careless chat of the snow shoers rendering the

scene and situation brim full of enjoyment. We were bound for Twombley's, a country seat three miles distant, where we knew that good cheer, a well laid board and a hearty welcome awaited us. Through the gates of the Castle grounds we filed and then out onto the highway, which after half a mile of travel we left for a cross country route. Fences were encountered, but manly hands and arms soon made a breach for our fair charges, and on we went over meadow and through woodland, while *tuques* were pushed back and sashes loosened, as our blood began to jump through our veins with the healthful exercise. Once we saw another line of torches half a mile away across the meadow, and we heard and answered their distant "*Yo-e-dcl*" as it was borne to us upon the still night air. It was in the midst of my heartfelt enjoyment of the trip, and just as I was in the humor to slap myself on the back for my success as a snow-shoer, that something happened. Just how it happened I do not know, but something must have gotten sadly tangled, for both my shoes seemed suddenly to become possessed of the devil, and over I went, heels over head into the snow, finally stopping flat on my back with my shoes waving wildly in the air. Of course my torch went with me and it managed to give vent to a hiss of disapproval as I shoved it into the snow, but the act left us—"the blue *tuque*" and I, in darkness, and before the next torch came upon us, I was, with the prompt assistance of

my little partner, on my feet again. I smothered the invective that arose to my lips, lighted my extinguished torch from the flame of the next couple, and forged ahead with Dick's "*Yo-e-del, Torch down!*" ringing in my ears, and the consciousness that "the blue *tuque*" beside me was struggling hard to suppress her laughter.

"Funny, wasn't it, Miss Reggie," I asked finally, when the silence had become oppressive.

"Very," came the answer in a voice choking with girlish mirth, and then, unable to conceal her sense of the ridiculous longer, she burst forth into a peal of laughter in which I joined, and for which I readily forgave her when she asked it. Fifteen minutes later we arrived at Twombley's, a big old fashioned house like 'the Castle,' the home of a Montreal merchant, whose greatest enjoyment lay in seeing his matronly-looking wife, his two manly sons and as many fair daughters make the best of life. Warm was the welcome and bounteous the repast that had been prepared for our coming. Snow-shoes were shed and stood upon end in the big portico, and in the glow from the old fireplace in the big hall, cloaks and coats were removed, and the merry-making began. Several pieces of music were present and with waltz and quadrille, the sword dance from a young Scotchman by the name of McGregor, a pretty fancy dance with a Highland-fling step by the little "blue *tuque*," and songs by others of our party, three hours of an



HOME BY MOONLIGHT.

evening I shall never forget, sped by all too quickly. Then once more cloaks and coats were donned; sashes tightened, snow-shoes adjusted, and under the radiant light of a lovely moon, which lowering clouds no longer hid, we bade our generous hosts farewell and started upon our return tramp to the Castle, which we reached a full hour after midnight. A parting flagon in the big hall—*en* snow-shoes; good-nights were spoken, and half an hour after, in my dreams I was tramping back to Twombley's with “the blue *tuque*” beside me.

And now farewell to Canada, but only until another winter shall have rolled around, for then, unless our own country shall have shown a disposition to improve its opportunities in a social sense and enjoy winter life to some extent as the Canucks enjoy it, the snows of another year will see the writer in Montreal, where King Boreas holds court, as he reigns in no city in all this broad country of ours.

THE COMING PASTIME.

V.

THE FUTURE OF TOBOGGANING—RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF A TOBOGGAN CLUB—BADGES AND UNIFORMS—THE ARTIFICIAL SLIDE—PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTING THE SAME.

In concluding this work, I want to say to lovers of winter sports not only in New York and Chicago, but throughout the Eastern and New England States and in Northern Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Missouri, as well as throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, that tobogganing should and can be the popular winter pastime in all of these sections. Natural slides, as I have stated in the early pages of this book, are *not nearly so desirable or safe as are the artificial*, and any one with a little ingenuity, and at very little expense, can construct a very good toboggan slide. So far as Chicago is concerned, the transformation at the Chicago ball park, turning those beautiful athletic grounds into a great center of winter pastimes, will probably set the ball rolling in ice-skating rinks and tobogganing this winter; and next winter, if indeed it does not take place this winter,

THE COMING PASTIME.

I fancy that at no infrequent intervals along Drexel and Grand boulevards and the other drives leading to spacious parks and public breathing grounds, toboggan slides will have been erected by as many flourishing clubs, and that when not tobogganing, these same clubs will be participating in the exhilarating and in every way pleasurable sport of snow-shoe walking. The winters both in Chicago and New York are beautifully adapted to every sport that obtains to so conspicuous an extent in Canada, and that it has not long ere this been taken advantage of, is the fault of our young people themselves. Let the sport once be thoroughly understood, and it cannot fail to be appreciated to an extent that will make it as immensely popular in the United States as in Canada.

The Kenwood Club in Chicago, and the Orange and Tuxedo Clubs down in Jersey, are doubtless only the first of the many organizations of the kind that must spring into existence with the popularization of tobogganing, and for the guidance of any young people wishing to organize, we print the following form for by-laws and club regulations as now in vogue among the Canadian clubs.

CLUB ORGANIZATION.

BY-LAWS ;

OR,

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Toboggan Club.

ARTICLE I.

This club shall be called the Toboggan Club, and is established with a view to encouraging the love of a healthful out-door sport.

ARTICLE II.

The badge of this club shall be and a Toboggan on a ribbon to be selected by a committee of lady associate members.

ARTICLE III.

The membership of this club shall be of active members, honorary members, and lady associate members.

None but active members shall vote or be eligible for office.

ARTICLE IV.

ELECTIONS.—Elections of members shall be by ballot; one black ball in ten votes shall exclude an applicant.

ARTICLE V.

The annual subscription shall be as follows:

Sec. 1. Active members, - - - (Five Dollars.)

Sec. 2. Lady associate members, (.....)

Sec. 3. Every member on being elected shall sign the Rules and Regulations, and pay his dues within ten days.

Sec. 4. Annual subscriptions shall be due and payable on the first day of November, each and every year.

Sec. 5. Any member in arrears for two months shall be excluded from all the privileges of the club, and in four months may be expelled from the club for the same cause.

Sec. 6. Badges shall be issued to members only upon payment of dues.

Sec. 7. Special Badges may be obtained from the Treasurer for the use of children under 15 on (days) from o'clock to on payment of \$.....

ARTICLE VI.

OFFICERS.—*Sec. 1.* The officers of this club shall consist of a President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

Sec. 2. Elections of officers shall be by ballot, annually, and meetings for that purpose shall be held on the first Tuesday in November.

ARTICLE VII.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.—*Sec. 1.* It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings, and see that the rules of the club are enforced at all times; to appoint committees of management whenever the business of the club requires it, and to call special meetings upon request of any five members. In the absence of the President the duties to be performed by one of the Vice-Presidents.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate record of proceedings, and to attend to all correspondence.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys paid into the club, and keep a regular account of receipts and disbursements; and no bills shall be paid by him except such as have been approved by the Managing Committee.

Sec. 4. He shall send notices to all members of unpaid dues.

Sec. 5. The Managing Committee may call special meetings at any time upon six days' notice, and fifteen members shall constitute a quorum for ordinary business. The Committee can make rules for the management and use of the slide.

ARTICLE VIII.

Sec. 1. Any member who has been guilty of ungentlemanly conduct may be suspended by the Committee, or may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the members present, at a regularly called meeting for that purpose.

Sec. 2. Members using the slide must wear the club badge or uniform.

Club badges cannot be transferred.

Sec. 3. No one can be admitted to the slide without a club badge.

Sec. 4. Special badges for visitors may be had of the Managing Committee subject to limitation by Committee, upon payment of \$.....

ARTICLE IX.

The Rules may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote at a meeting regularly called for that purpose.

RULES

GOVERNING THE TOBOGGAN SLIDE.

—o—

I. There will be no charge for the use of the slide.

II. Felt badges intended to be worn on the left breast or left arm by club members and their lady guests, may be secured upon payment of *twenty-five cents each, at the store of*

TEN-DAY BADGES FOR GUESTS.

III. *Active* members shall be provided by the Secretary, with *two visitors' badges*. Such visitors must be introduced by members of the club, and *must be non-residents of* . Upon their first visit they *must be registered in the visitors' book at the club-house*.

IV. Club and visitors' badges *must be worn in plain sight at all times*. Club badges *are not transferable*, and if used by other than the rightful owner, *shall be forfeited*. Members or visitors not wearing or showing badges *shall not be admitted to the slide*.

V. Rule No. 3, relating to guests, may be modified at any time by the Board of Trustees.

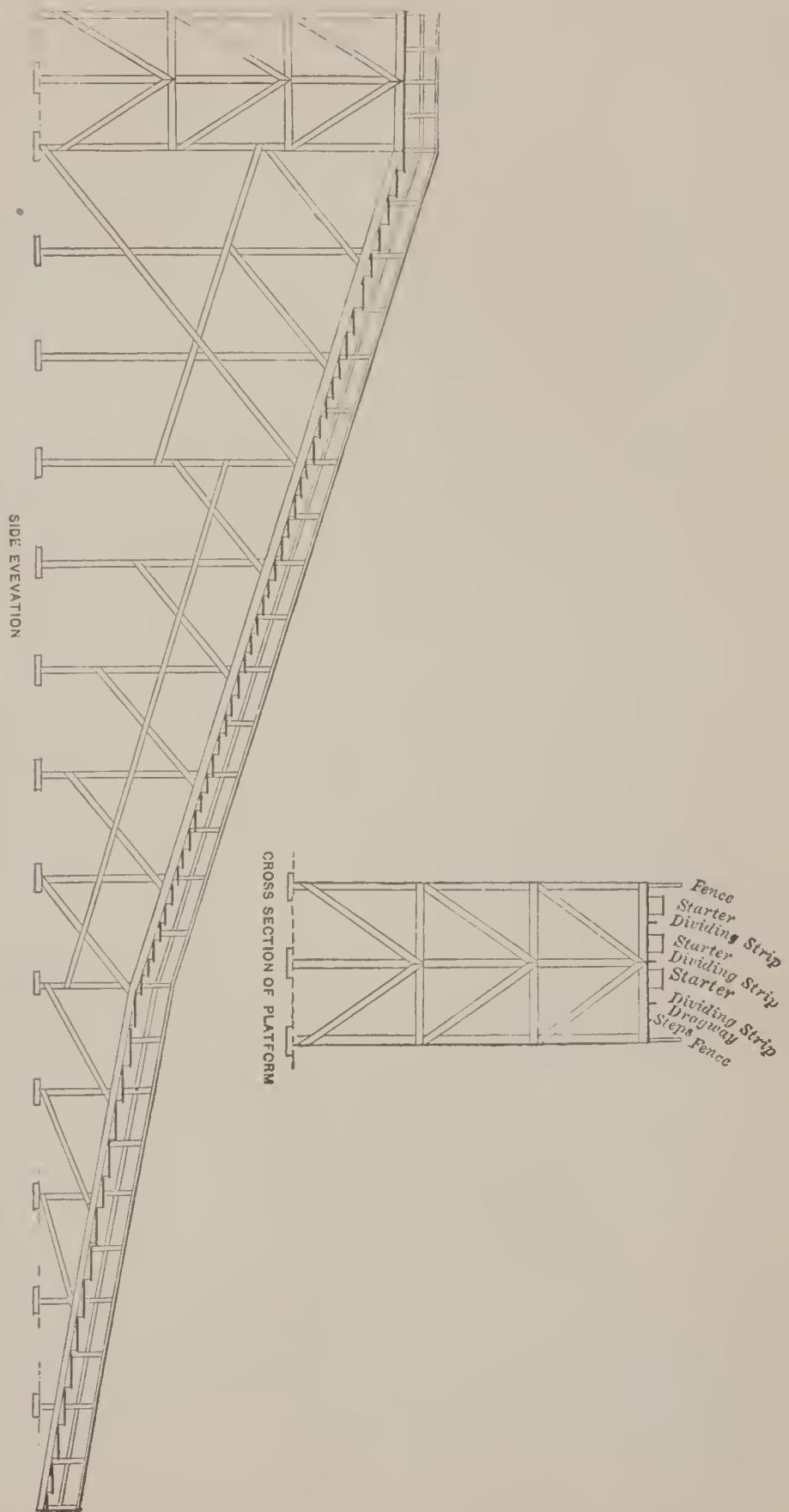
VI. The Slide Committee shall have full power, subject to the Board of Trustees, over the slide and the care-takers, *opening and closing* it as they may deem best.

VII. No one will be allowed to steer a toboggan unless wearing *moccasins or overshoes*. This prohibits the wearing of a *leather boot in steering*.

VIII. The committee and care-takers shall have *absolute control of the platform and the starting of each toboggan*.

By order of the Trustees,

President.



TO BUILD A SLIDE.

Only two things are necessary; first, the territory upon which to construct it, and second, the materials. If the plans and specifications printed in this little volume are clearly followed, any one with even an ordinary conception of carpentering can put up a slide. Following we give specifications and estimates of material required for building a slide of three chutes on level ground:

The height of level platform from ground to be 40 feet.

The size of level platform to be 16x18 feet.

The length of the chute or inclined part of slide to be 160 feet.

The slide to consist of three chuteways and a dragway and steps, divided from each other by a 2x10-inch plank spiked on edge, as shown in cross section view in accompanying plan.

[*NOTE.*—With the width of the whole slide at 18 feet, the chutes are each 4 feet wide, and the stair and dragway 5 feet wide. This is thought by some to be wider than necessary, as the "Star" toboggan, which is the standard, is only 18 inches wide. Sixteen feet in width is thought to be sufficient, which would reduce the expense somewhat, and as 16 feet floor beams are more likely to be found in stock in ordinary lumber yards, it may be better to reduce the width of the chute and dragways proportionately.]

ESTIMATE OF MATERIAL REQUIRED.

Uprights for Support of Main Platform or Level Part.—Twenty-one pieces 4x6x13 (or forty-two pieces 2x6 spiked together, if more convenient).

Uprights for Support of Inclined Part.—Thirty-two pieces

4x6x13 (or lengths to cut to best advantage for shorter posts).

Floor Beams.—Forty-two pieces 2x6x18 (or 16, as suggested in note above).

Floor Plank for Level Part.—Thirty-six pieces 1½x6x16 (proportionately less, if note is followed).

Floor Plank for Chutes.—One hundred and sixty-eight pieces 1½x6x12 (or proportionately less, if note is followed).

Brace Pieces.—Fifty-two pieces 2x5x16.

For Side Rail and Support.—Thirty-one pieces 2x4x16.

For Parting Strips.—Thirty pieces 2x10x16.

For Boarding up Under Side Rails.—Fifty pieces 7/8x8x16.

For Stairs, etc.—Thirty pieces 1¼x8x16.

A bundle of laths or other light strips to hold the ice, if the slide is to be paved with ice, which is recommended. There are to be three sections in elevation of platform, of 13 feet lengths, placed one upon the other, to obtain the full elevation. It is intended to place a flat stone or piece of timber to stand the uprights upon. When one post stands upon another for the upper sections, short pieces of plank should be well spiked upon the insides of the posts, one-half of the piece lapping upon each post. These pieces are put upon the inner sides in order not to be in the way of spiking on the outside bracing, as shown in the drawing.

The planking of the platform is to run lengthwise of the slide, and the planking of the slideways is in 12 feet lengths, also running lengthwise of the slide.

The posts under the pitch of the slide are to be placed just 12 feet apart, from center to center, and floor beams are spiked upon both sides of the upper ends of the posts, in order to make certain and safe support at both ends of planking.

It will be observed that the lower part of the slide is not as steep as the upper. This may be varied to suit particular cases. It is designed to make the change to level ground less abrupt. Of course, when ground can be selected which has a descending grade, as is almost always the case, just so much

of the structure will be saved as is made up by the natural rise of the ground.

The method of construction is very cheap, simple and strong, but care should be taken that the braces and floor beams and posts are thoroughly well spiked together. By boarding up around the posts of the lower part of the level part of the platform, a large room will be afforded, at a slight additional cost, which may be kept warm, if desired, and afford a means of shelter or a place for refreshments, as well as to afford a place for the club to store their articles under lock and key.

In ordinarily favorable localities the cost ought not to exceed \$250, which is a liberal estimate. The slide built upon the ice during the carnival in Burlington in the winter of 1885-'86, not quite but nearly as large as that in the accompanying plan, cost the sum of \$175 complete.

At a cost of \$250, a club of 50 members, subscribing \$5 each, would do the work. And then by selling special privilege badges, or tickets to visitors not members of the club at a fixed price on certain days, the ordinary running expenses could be met without further assessment of members.

It is not absolutely necessary that there should be a drag on which the toboggans are drawn up to the top, but they can be drawn up the stairs without any difficulty whatever. This is often done in order to reduce the cost of the slide, and as this is frequently quite an item, it is worthy of mention.

PACKING A CHUTE.

Although the last nail may have been driven in the structure, and the last brace set, the work upon it is as yet only half finished, for now comes the somewhat delicate operation of "packing the chute" with the snow that under proper treatment should within a few hours present an unbroken glare of ice, over

which the toboggans and their loads should rush without the slightest jar or roughness. Only with experience can one become a good "packer," it requiring experience to know just how to bank up the snow in the chute so that it will freeze solidly, and how to apply the water so that it will freeze smoothly. The following is an excellent plan to follow for making the foundation of a slide: Mix sawdust with about an equal amount of snow, and put down as a foundation about four inches of this mixture, wetting it a little—not enough to make it run, however—and allow it to freeze. This will make the ice last much longer in thawing weather than to put the ice or snow directly on the bed of the slide, the idea being that the sawdust keeps it from melting from the under side at all, and besides, it makes such a smooth surface. An addition of one-quarter or half an inch of snow will always keep the slide in good shape, and it will last all winter in any ordinary weather by taking fairly good care of it.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

Johnson, Emerson & Co.,

Proprietors and Sole Manufacturers in the United States of

The "Star Patent" and "Burlington" Toboggans, BURLINGTON, VERMONT.

Last season, which was the first for the Toboggan Trade in this country, the business, though entirely new and untried, was, all things considered, one of remarkable success.

It was not very well known that the only really good form of toboggan was patented, and many manufacturers, enticed by the captivating prospects of a good trade, rushed into the business and put their various products upon the market. But, however various the designs, each aimed to produce in his own way the popular *slat toboggan*, but invariably soon found himself plump against an infringement of the **Star Patents** and had to quit the field.

The original **Star Patent** was taken out in Canada, and afterward secured in the United States. It is the "ground patent"; the first one ever issued on Toboggans, and is by virtue of its being a *first patent*, given a very wide application by the Department, as against all claims that aim to produce the same results. The Star Patents and Registered Trade Mark granted by the United States, are now the exclusive property of the undersigned, and all infringements will be vigorously prosecuted. The "Burlington" and "Boys' Own" Toboggans are also patented and names registered.

The possession of these Patents and Trade Marks gives absolute control of the only popular form of Toboggans, and we are therefore in a position to give the trade every opportunity for a good business.

Knowing the importance of encouraging Clubs, we have lithographed a working plan drawn to a scale, of the most approved form of Slide, together with specifications and estimate of amount and cost of material required to erect the same. We have also prepared a form of By-Laws, or Rules and Regulations, for organizing and managing Clubs and Slides.

We have also in press an elegant Chromo Lithograph, 22x28 inches, designed to assist in the formation of Clubs. The picture is a spirited scene of one of the largest Club Slides in full operation, and full of life and beauty; many of the figures are from actual photographs from life, and show the handsome costumes worn. These gay costumes against a ground of fleecy snow, and the brilliant action of the whole picture, will attract instant attention wherever exhibited. Sample lithograph will be sent to any address by A. G. SPALDING & BROS. on receipt of 25 cents.

"Boys' Own" Toboggans vs. Sleds.

While the business with Clubs is for the higher priced Toboggans, it is very sure that the great popularity of our Boys' Own TOBOGGANS will make the demand for them IN PLACE OF SLEDS very large, and a supply should be provided for early to secure prompt delivery. We have made preparations for a large business, but it is not unlikely that the BOOM may exceed our preparations, and late orders may be difficult to fill.

We have arranged with **Messrs. A. G. SPALDING & BROS.**, of 241 Broadway, New York, and 108 Madison Street, Chicago, for the exclusive sale of these Toboggans, and orders from dealers should be sent direct to them.

Respectfully,

JOHNSON, EMERSON & CO.,

Burlington, Vermont.

“Star Patent” Toboggans.



A good many people will ask, “How can you tell a good Toboggan, anyhow?” Briefly, then, the **REQUISITES** for a perfect Toboggan, are resiliency, or springiness, combined with strength, speed and lightness, and the quality of quickly yielding to, and recovering from, contact with uneven surfaces of ice and snow, when under great speed.

These qualities prevent sudden strains from breaking the Toboggan, and permit the most exhilarating speed with perfect safety. When Tobogganing became a pastime, from its wonderful and fascinating merits as a safe outdoor sport, it was quickly found that the old Indian Toboggan could not “stand the racket,” and once broken was wholly lost. Hence the invention of the “STAR” SLAT Toboggan, which permits a broken part to be removed and replaced by a new one.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Johnson, Emerson & Co., Burlington, Vt., are the sole proprietors and manufacturers of the **STAR PATENTS**, granted on Toboggans made of slats, and particularly, in any form to lessen the frictional surface; and all persons are warned that making or dealing in Toboggans with slats, and with their under or running surface chamfered, rounded or shaped, in any way other than perfectly flat, or with the under surface furrowed or corrugated, is a direct infringement of these patents, and notice is given that all such infringements will be prosecuted by the manufacturers.

The trade is especially cautioned against dealing in shaped, slat or furrowed Toboggans not bearing the Trademark as noted.

ALSO TAKE NOTICE.

That this TRADEMARK  is covered by the United States letters patent, and its use in any way applied to Toboggans by other parties is prohibited by law, and all such infringements will be prosecuted.

A 6 foot Star Toboggan weighs only 14 lbs. and is a marvel of strength.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

108 Madison Street, CHICAGO.

241 Broadway, NEW YORK.

"STAR PATENT" TOBOGGANS.



The "Star Patent" Toboggan has been from the first the acknow'edged standard, simply because it is constructed with an understanding of the requirements. The essential features of the original patent (the first patent ever issued on Toboggans) were, a Toboggan made of slats, and the slats shaped to lessen the frictional surface. The old Indian form was perfectly flat on the bearing surface, formed of one or two pieces of thin wood, and besides lacking the requisite strength and lateral resiliency, it offered the greatest resistance, or frictional surface to the snow. This is true of all flat Toboggans.

We ask especial attention to the new method of adjusting the side rails, which is patented.

No. O. THE "STAR" EXPERT.

With Patent Steel Shoe.

This quality, which is our best, is made in two sizes only. The Toboggan is made of rock maple, of selected, kiln dried material, highly finished. It consists of seven slats, oval shape on the bearing surface, three of which are slightly thicker than the others, and these are provided with a PATENT STEEL SHOE.

The shoe is of steel, and by an ingenious invention requiring special machinery, flanges are turned into the wood in such a way that no bolts, screws or rivets are used anywhere along the bearing surface, and makes the most perfect thi' g of the kind ever invented.

PRICE LIST.

| | |
|--|---------|
| 7 feet long, 18 inches wide, each..... | \$12 00 |
| 6 " " 18 " " " | 10 00 |

No. I. THE "STAR" STANDARD

Is made of rock maple of kiln-dried and selected material, and is thoroughly first-class in every respect. The first four sizes composed of seven slats, and put together in the same manner as the "Expert"; also oval shaped, three of which are thicker than the others, trimmings nickel plated or polished brass.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 8 feet long, 18 in. wide, each..... | \$8 50 | 5 feet long, 18 in. wide, each... | \$5 50 |
| 7 " " 18 " " " | 7 50 | 4 " " 12½ " " " | 4 00 |
| 6 " " 18 " " " | 6 50 | | |

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

108 Madison Street, CHICAGO.

241 Broadway, NEW YORK.

No. 2. THE "STAR" SPECIAL.

This quality is made of selected material—oak, hickory—with a high degree of finish. Made in best manner. SILVER PLATED TRIMMINGS.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 8 feet long, 18 in. wide, each.... | \$10 00 | 5 feet long, 18 in. wide, each... | \$7 00 |
| 7 " " 18 " " | 9 00 | 4 " " 12½ " " | 5 50 |
| 6 " " 18 " " | 8 00 | | |

No. 3. THE "BURLINGTON" TOBOGGAN.



The "Burlington" is a first class Toboggan in workmanship and material, and is as near perfect as any flat Toboggan can be made. It is strong and durable made of hard maple and other close-grained and smooth-wearing hard woods, but is not as swift as the "STAR" because of its FLAT under, or running surface. But with the patent fixtures it is unqualifiedly the best flat Toboggan made. Made in three sizes only, of seven slats of equal thickness, with japanned trimmings.

| | |
|--|--------|
| 7 feet long, 18 inches wide, each..... | \$5 50 |
| 6 " " 18 " " | 4 50 |
| 5 " " 18 " " | 3 50 |

No. 4. THE BOY'S OWN.



The "Boy's Own" is as its name would imply, a smaller Toboggan. It is made of slats, however, of good selected wood, well and strongly made with the patent slotted ravel or side rail, and has become very popular for durability and lightness, and will be a CHRISTMAS PRESENT most desired.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| 4 feet long, each | \$2 50 |
| 3 " " " | 2 00 |

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

108 Madison Street, CHICAGO.

241 Broadway, NEW YORK.

TOBOGGAN UNIFORMS.

BLANKET SUITS.

Complete, consisting of Coat, Knee Pants, Toque (or Knit Cap), Stockings and Socks, Sash and Moccasins.

| | Each. |
|--------------------------|--------|
| No. 1. Best Quality..... | \$2 00 |
| No. 2. 2d " | 22 00 |
| No. 3. 3d " | 18 00 |

BLANKET COATS.

| | Each. |
|--------------------------|---------|
| No. 1. Best Quality..... | \$13 50 |
| No. 2. 2d " | 10 00 |
| No. 3. 3d " | 8 00 |

BLANKET PANTS.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| No. 1. Best Quality..... | \$6 50 |
| No. 2. 2d " | 5 00 |
| No. 3. 3d " | 4 00 |

TOQUES (or Knit Caps).

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| No. 1. Best Quality..... | \$2 00 |
| No. 2. 2d " | 1 50 |
| No. 3. 3d " | 1 00 |
| No. 4. 4th " | 50 |

SASHES.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| No. 1. Best Quality..... | \$2 00 |
| No. 2. 2d " | 1 50 |
| No. 3. 3d " | 1 00 |

STOCKINGS.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| No. 1. Best Quality Hose..... | \$1 50 | } \$2 00 |
| No. 1a. " " Socks..... | 75 | |
| No. 2. 2d " Hose..... | 1 00 | } 1 50 |
| No. 2a. " " Socks..... | 50 | |
| No. 3. 3d " Hose..... | 75 | } 1 00 |
| No. 3a. " " Socks..... | 50 | |

NOTE.—In Tobogganing a pair of long Stockings are worn with a pair of short Socks which are rolled over the Moccasin.

MOCCASINS.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| No. 1. Best Quality..... | \$2 50 |
|--------------------------|--------|

We can furnish our best quality of suits in the following colors: Black and Orange, Blue and Red, Gray and Blue, Gray and Red, Fawn and Red, Cardinal and Black, White and Red, White and Blue. In our Second and Third quality we can furnish Gray and Blue, Red and Black, White and Blue, White and Red.

Clubs desiring special club colors can, by ordering in sufficient quantities, have special colors made to order.

NOTE.—The color mentioned first denotes the color of the body of the blanket, and the second mentioned color is the stripe; as in case of Blue and Red—Blue is the principal color, and the stripe is Red.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS..

108 Madison Street, CHICAGO.

241 Broadway, NEW YORK.



PUBLIC TOBOGGAN SLIDE AND ICE SKATING PARK,
AT CHICAGO BASE BALL PARK,
CORNER THROOP AND HARRISON STREETS.

A Three-Chute Toboggan Slide has been erected at the Chicago Ball Park, and will be open to the public about December 1. Admission to Park, 25c.; 5 Tickets \$1.00; 20 Tickets, \$3 50; Season Tickets, \$5.00.

The whole Park will be lit with 16 Electric Lights, and will be open day and evening.



AN EXPERT ON SNOW SHOES

| | | Price Per pair. |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| No. 4. | Snowshoes, size, 10 1/2 x 36 inches | \$4 00 |
| No. 4 1/2 | " " 11 1/2 x 36 " | 5 00 |
| No. 5 | " " 12 x 42 " | 6 00 |
| No. 6 | " " | 7 00 |
| Racing | " size, 11 1/2 x 36 " | 5 00 |

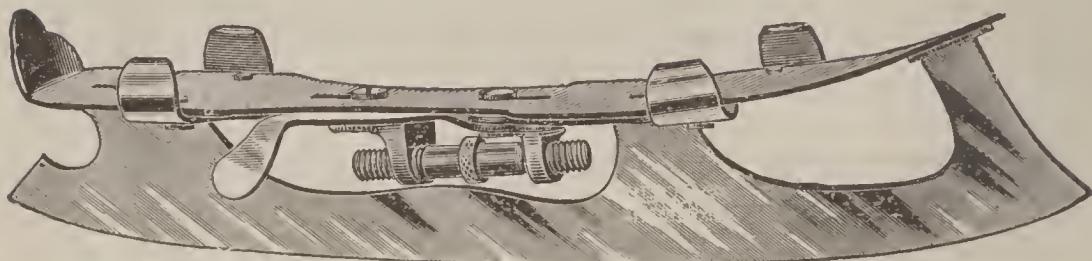
For list and prices of Suits for Snowshoeing, see description for Toboggan Suits, the same styles and kinds being used.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

108 Madison Street, CHICAGO.

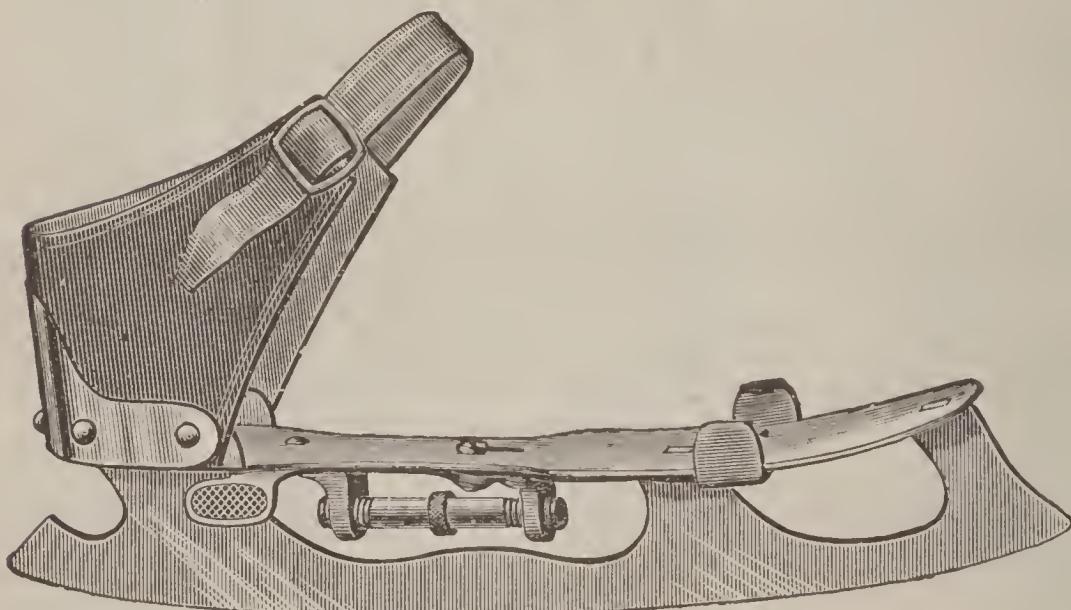
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Spalding's Peerless Club Skates.



| | |
|---|--------|
| No. 0. Spalding's Peerless Club, Lever Clamp, best hardened steel, plated and polished..... | \$5 00 |
| No. 1. Spalding's Peerless Club, Lever Clamp, best hardened steel, nickel plated..... | 4 00 |

Spalding's Peerless Club No. 3. FOR LADIES.



| | |
|---|--------|
| No. 3. Spalding's Peerless Club for Ladies, Lever Toe Clamp, Heel Straps, best hardened steel, nickel plated..... | \$4 00 |
|---|--------|

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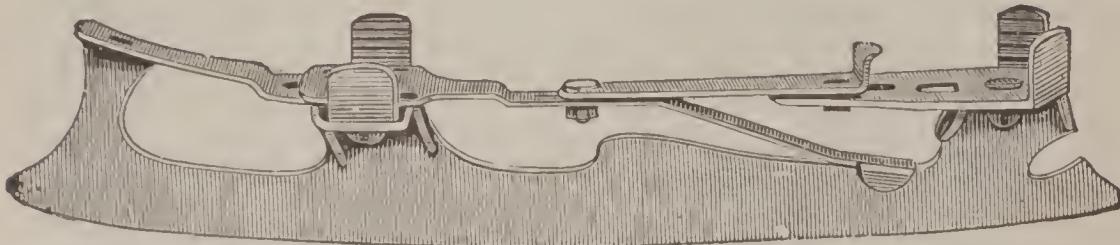
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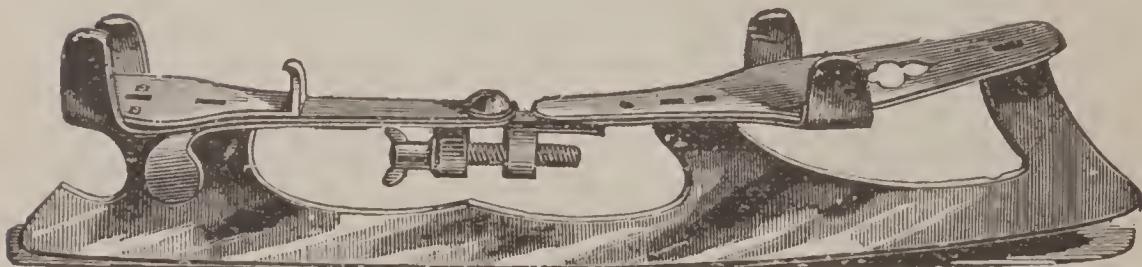
ACME PATTERN SKATES.

Made by The Samuel Winslow Skate Mfg. Co.



| | |
|---|------------------|
| No. 5. Cast Steel Runners..... | Per pair, \$1 25 |
| No. 7. Hardened Steel Runners, extra finish. | " 2 00 |
| No. 10. Hardened Steel Runners, nickel plated | " 3 00 |

AMERICAN CLUB.



The above style is of the best quality, with welded, tempered and polished steel blades, and blued steel foot rests and clamps.

Sizes, 8, 8½, 9, 9½, 10, 10½, 11, 11½ inches.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| No. 1. Blued, price per pair..... | \$4 00 |
| No. 2. Nickel Plated, per pair..... | 5 00 |
| No. 0. Cast Steel, per pair..... | 2 50 |

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ATHLETIC SERIES.—The aim of the various manuals or hand books constituting our *Athletic Series* will be to educate the readers in each particular game or sport in which they may be interested. A long experience in sporting matters induces a belief that thorough descriptions, accompanied by the necessary illustrations, will enable those who, by force of circumstances are deprived of the opportunity of obtaining practical instruction or accurate knowledge, to become proficient without such instruction.

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October 26, 1884. If we may believe the contention of our friends, we have the broadest

A. G. SPALDING & BROS., CHICAGO STORE.



A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,
MADISON STREET, CHICAGO.
241 Broadway, New York.

store in America, and the largest stock of general Sporting Goods in the world. We sell at both wholesale and retail, and orders from dealers and individuals, intrusted to us, will receive prompt and careful attention.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.

NEW YORK STORE.

The accompanying cut represents our New York store, at 241 Broadway, one block north of the Astor House, and directly opposite the City Hall. Our trade has increased so rapidly in



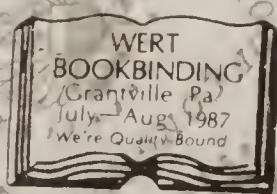
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241 BROADWAY, - - NEW YORK

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the New England, Eastern and South Eastern States that in order to properly supply this trade a New York house has become necessary. We shall sell it both wholesale and retail, and orders sent us from either dealers or individuals will receive a prompt and satisfactory





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